



The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Inc.

AFFILIATED WITH
THE VICTORIAN FARMERS' AND GRAZIERS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT James A. Commins
SECRETARY Coral Aston

POST OFFICE,
ENSAY, VIC. 3895

February 22, 1985.

Dear Members,

I feel that I should convey some news of what transpired at our Annual Get-together last week to those of you who were unable to be there.

We were again fortunate that the weather was near perfect and the location ideal and a large crowd of people, far greater than ever before, were able to enjoy a weekend of good company and entertainment.

I have not yet ascertained the nett financial results from the gate or the wares tent, but they should be very satisfactory.

We are indebted to Harry Stephenson for producing an anniversary issue of Voice of the Mountains that was ready for distribution at the gathering.

A ceramic bottle of port wine to celebrate the 150 years of mountain grazing was specially prepared by Brown Bros. Winery at Millawa and the initial stock was completely sold out.

Those who brought horses long distances to compete in the Cattlemen's Cup and Pack Horse Championship must be thanked for their contribution to highlights of the weekend.

A meeting of members and associates was held on Saturday afternoon and there were also several Members of Parliament as well as press representatives in attendance.

The meeting was a general discussion of topical issues and on directions that our Association should take.

There was confirmation of our stand against the currently proposed National Park extensions and while we are a non-political organisation, there was unanimous agreement that we are presently at odds with the Government on this issue. It was resolved to support candidates in the forthcoming election who will not support extensions to National Parks until the management of the alpine area is completely reviewed and grazing recognised for its true worth.

WE FEEL THAT ANY ELECTORAL SWING TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY IF IT GAINS CONTROL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WOULD NOT ONLY DISADVANTAGE US, BUT WOULD BE A DISASTROUS BLOW TO GOOD AND EFFICIENT UTILISATION OF ALL NATURAL RESOURCES AS WELL AS PLACE THE WHOLE REGION UNDER UN-NECESSARY REGULATION AND RISK.

The meeting was advised that some members have received extraordinarily high demands for payment of their grazing licence fees and all members are advised not to pay any of these excessive amounts until there is some agreement between our Association, the Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association who represent us, and the Government.

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We are in the most crucial period in the long history of mountain grazing and public support is essential. Further to this end we have been invited to take part in the Moomba procession in Melbourne on March 11th and I urge all members to make yet another special effort to take part in that if they possibly can as it is the means of securing much more vitally important publicity and support. After the parade we will assemble as a group in Alexander Avenue for an hour or so to meet interested members of the public before we leave for home. It will also be a good opportunity to meet any Associate Members who are able to be there.

I want to publicly thank the donors of very substantial sponsorship funds that are coming to hand, and to again thank all Associate Members for their most valued support and may Members receive sufficient returns from their Autumn cattle sales to make all their efforts appear worthwhile

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Commins".

JIM COMMINS